

Sub. C cont.

concentration of at least 0.5 and less than 5 [selected from 0.5 - 5] ppm, and sufficient alkali metal hydroxide to provide an excess alkalinity concentration of between 0.1 - [0.5] 0.3 g/L alkali metal hydroxide to effect precipitation of a magnesium aluminum hydroxide complex; and

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(b) removing said complex to provide said brine feedstock.

[Amend claim 2 as follows:]

2. (Twice Amended) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said Mg to Al molar ratio is about 10:1[,] and said Mg concentration is [between] from 1 [and] to less than 5 ppm [and said excess alkalinity is about between 0.1 to 0.3 g/L alkali metal hydroxide].

Amend claim 7 as follows:

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7. (Twice Amended) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said treating is carried out at 50-70°C and the excess alkalinity is between 0.1 to 0.2 g/L alkali metal hydroxide and further comprising determining the concentration of aluminum species in said feedstock and adding magnesium salt to provide said Mg to Al ratio within said Mg concentration.

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment for allowance is requested.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the Section 103(a) rejection of the claims based on Nagy. The reference does not make the applicants'